

Student Use of Alcohol, Cannabis or Other Drugs



Adopted: June 28, 2011

Amended: August 11, 2020

External References

- Education Act: Sections 85, 87, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 175
- Narcotic Control Act
- Food and Drug Act
- Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act

Internal References

- AP 165 Smoke, Tobacco and Vape Free Environment
- AP 316 Administration of Essential Medication to Students/Personal Care
- AP 360 Student Discipline
- AP 352 Positive Behaviour Support
- AP 548 Community Use of School Facilities
- Form 316-3 Provision of Prescription Medication Physician

Background

The Division has an educational and societal responsibility to prohibit the student use or possession of alcohol, cannabis or other drugs at all times. Cooperation with families and community agencies shall be sought when students are experiencing problems related to alcohol, cannabis and other drugs. Educational programs focusing on healthy lifestyles shall be taught to students in order to discourage the use of alcohol, cannabis and other drugs. Every effort must be made to establish school environments that are alcohol, cannabis, and drug free.

Definitions

Alcohol means ethyl alcohol, or other molecular weight alcohol including methyl and isopropyl alcohol.

Cannabis is defined as any product containing, made or derived from the cannabis plant this is intended for human consumption whether smoked, heated, inhaled, dissolved or ingested.

Drugs are substances, including alcohol, cannabis, illegal drugs and prescribed medications, the use of which have the potential to change or adversely affect a person’s physiological and/or psychological state and/or potentially inhibit a person’s ability to perform their job safely and productively.

Substance Use Disorder is the term devised by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) that diagnostically replaces terms including substance addiction and substance abuse disorder. An individual must meet a certain set of criteria in order to receive this diagnosis, and the diagnosis qualifies as a disability under human rights legislation.

Recreational Drug and/or Alcohol Use is the recreational use of drugs and/or alcohol where the individual user does not have a disability.

Procedures

1. The school is to cooperate with parents/guardians, community agencies, and law enforcement agencies in their attempts to address problems associated with alcohol, cannabis and other drug use. Such cooperation may include, but is not limited to:
 - 1.1 Referral to drug awareness programs;

- 1.2 Referral to various counseling agencies, services and/or personnel, or
 - 1.3 Referral or enrolment in various support or rehabilitation programs.
2. Students who choose to disclose any alcohol or other drug related problem to a staff member will be directed to an agency or program to help them address the issue. There is a responsibility for staff members to inform the principal of the disclosure so the individual can be so directed.
 3. In the event that medically prescribed cannabis must be administered at school, the principal will ensure that Administrative Procedures 316 Administration of Essential Medication to Students/Personal Care is adhered to. In all cases, Form 316-3 Provision of Prescription Medication Physician must be completed by the physician.
 4. Notwithstanding section 3, cannabis is not to be smoked and/or ingested on school property.
 5. To safeguard the student and others with whom the student may interact, the principal will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of any student the principal has reasonable grounds to consider being under the influence of alcohol, cannabis or other drugs, and to arrange for that student to be safely removed from the premises. The student may be dealt with in accordance with Administrative Procedures 360 Student Discipline and may be referred to appropriate enforcement agencies. The principal may consider an alternative to suspension, such as a substance abuse education program/component.
 6. Any student who is in possession of, distributes, sells or supplies alcohol, cannabis or other drugs on school premises, school buses or at any school-approved activity that is listed as unlawful under any statute or regulation, may be dealt with in accordance with Administrative Procedures 360 Student Discipline and referred to appropriate enforcement agencies.